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RECLAMATION . . . Work began this week on cleanup on the old Marathon Refinery area on the Pat and Mary Desjardins property northeast of Bristow. The \$62,000 project is conducted by the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board through voluntary contributions by Oklahoma Oil and Gas producers. Kinder Dozer Service of Carney is doing the work.

Desjardins/Marathon cleanup begins

Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) has begun cleanup of the old Marathon Refinery location northeast of Bristow, on the McDonald Road.

Landowners Pat and Mary Desjardins, whose property a major portion of the refinery sits on, have been working with OERB officials for about three years in making preparation for the cleanup.

Buddy Franklin, dozer and trackhoe operator for Kinder Dozer Company of Carney, moved equipment in Monday and began work on Desjardins' property.

Franklin said Wednesday morning he will stay with the cleanup operation all the way through until it's finished.

Tuesday Franklin tore out an old stemwall and foundation near the Desjardins' home, and Wednesday morning he was digging a large hole to bury the concrete and rebar.

In addition to the old foundations, plans call for a small pond to be drained. Concrete pillars that supported pipelines, and pipe in the pond will be removed.

An old water tower foundation will remain to be utilized after the work is completed.

According to Desjardins, the well that supplied water to the refinery was a six-inch drilled well, and was 460-feet deep.

"These guys (OERB and Kinder) are very cooperative," Desjardins said. "And they're doing the job they said they'd do."

There is about 21 acres total scheduled to be cleaned and restored, according to Desjardins. The

of McDonald Road, and the fourth is on the west side.

Five abandoned plant sites containing concrete structures, gravel pits and hydrocarbons are in the \$62,000 project.

The contract calls for removing and disposing the concrete, gravel, flow lines, anchors and debris; dispersing/disposing the hydrocarbons; closing the pit, grading the designated areas, and planting the areas disturbed during the course of the work.

"This is good work the OERB is doing," Franklin said. "It's good for everybody, but it's really competitive. When there's a site showing, there's usually 15 contractors that show up to inspect the job site." Franklin added that his company has 30 days to finish their portion of the work.

Total restoration projects in Creek County since 1994 number 420 at a combined restoration cost of \$936,125.

OERB is funded through a voluntary assessment of one-tenth of one percent of oil and natural gas sales paid by Oklahoma's oil and natural gas producers and royalty owners (any producer or royalty owner that chooses not to participate has the option to apply for a refund). Through the voluntary funding, the OERB is dedicated to restoring abandoned well sites and educating the community on the contributions of the oil and gas industry.

At the end of this restoration project an area that has been sitting as a forest and lots of abandoned refinery waste for years will, within a couple of months, be cleared and improved, which will not only improve the environment, it will increase land

